

**BNSF**



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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

February 24, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

FEB 26 2004

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Public Record



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 407X); The  
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF")  
Abandonment in Seattle, Washington**

Dear Secretary Williams:

This abandonment was recently filed with the STB on February 5, 2004. To supplement information submitted in BNSF's Environmental Report concerning impacts to endangered species enclosed are two e-mail messages. In particular, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has now indicated it has no concerns relative to this abandonment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 352-2354 or [Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com](mailto:Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com).

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson, Chief, SEA (w/enclosures)  
Mr. Rich Costello, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Christopher Townsend, Washington Sound Transit  
Mr. Ken Berg, Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (w/enclosures)  
Mr. Richard Batie

**Sims, John A**

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**From:** Rich Costello [COSTERAC@dfw.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2004 7:10 PM  
**To:** Townsend, Christopher  
**Subject:** Re: BNSF Abandonment at Airport Way S and S Stevens Street

Thank you for the information. I understand the circumstances and appreciate your assurance of the provision of opportunity to review the Sound Transit construction plans when they are developed.  
The Department of Fish and Wildlife has no concerns relative to the action as described. I hope this meets your needs.

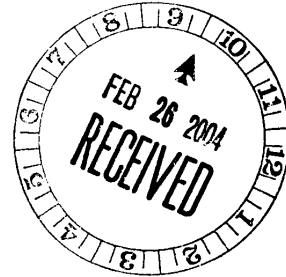
Rich Costello  
Regional Habitat Program Manager  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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work telephone: 425-775-1311 ext. 114  
e-mail address; costerac@dfw.wa.gov

02/20/2004

**Sims, John A**

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**From:** Townsend, Christopher [townsendc@soundtransit.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2004 9:28 AM  
**To:** Townsend, Christopher  
**Subject:** FW: BNSF Abandonment at Airport Way S and S Stevens Street



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Townsend, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2004 11:22 AM  
**To:** 'costerac@dfw.wa.gov'  
**Subject:** BNSF Abandonment at Airport Way S and S Stevens Street

The BNSF is going through a right of way abandonment process for a section of right of way that is approximately 30 feet wide and approximately 100 feet long. It is located in the northwest quadrant of Airport Way South and South Stevens Street in Seattle's south industrial area. It is being abandoned to allow the construction of a tunnel portal under Beacon Hill for the Sound Transit Link Light Rail Project.

I have made several visits to the location of this section of track with WDFW employee Patricia Thompson for the purpose of determining if any bird species of concern were nesting in the trees on the slopes of nearby Beacon Hill. No critical habitat was identified.

As part of the abandonment process, the BNSF would like to know if WDFW has any objections. The activity in question for the abandonment involves no construction activity... it is essentially a real estate transaction. WDFW has had and will have opportunities to comment on the light rail project construction at a different time.

Please respond to this email to let me know if you have questions or concerns or if you have no concerns.

Thank you for your assistance.

Chris Townsend  
Senior Environmental Planner  
Sound Transit  
(206) 398-5135

02/20/2004